

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USSAGE NAKHON PHNOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD POLAD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

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SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 19, 1973 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. INFORMED PP SOURCES SAY SEC. KISSINGER AND CHOU REACHED AGREEMENT FOR CHINA TO SUPPORT NEGOTIATED CAMBODIAN SOLUTION IN RETURN FOR CERTAIN US CONCESSIONS; BUT WASHINGTON DOS SOURCES DENY CAMBODIA WAS DISCUSSED IN SUBSTANCE DURING HAK PEKING VISIT (WP).

2.ROCKET GRENADE HITS HAMLET OFFICE 36 MILES SE OF SAIGON IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE, KILLS 2. SAIGON COMMAND SAYS UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMUNIST TERRORISM IN DELTA INCREASED WHERE BOTH SIDES FIGHT FOR RICE AS HARVEST UNDER WAY. HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES IN QUANG DUC PROVINCE WHERE CLASH KILLS 11 COMMUNISTS, 5 ARVN (UPI, NYDN).

3. IN REPORT DATED PEKING, WP SAYS VC LEADER NGUYEN HUU THO WELCOMED AT AIRPORT BY CHOU AND CHEERED BY THROGS IN CAPITAL'S STREETS. EDITORIAL IN PEOPLE'S DAILY HAILED VC "VICTORY" AGAINST "US AGGRESSION" BY "HEROIC COMRADES-IN-ARMS". AT BANQUET HONORING THO, CHOU CHARGED SVN VIOLATED C-F, BUT AVOIDED CRITICISM OF US.

4. UPI FROM HK REPORTS THAT US PEACE ACTIVISTS CORA WEISS AND DON LUCE RETURNED FROM 4 WEEKS IN NVN AND VC-CONTROLLED AREAS OF SVN AND SAID PRG WANTS COALITION GOVERNMENT, WILL DEFEND ITS TERRITORY, AND FULL-SCALE WAR COULD BREAK OUT AGAIN IF PARIS AGREEMENT NOT FULLY IMPLEMENTED. BOTH VISITORS CONVINCED NO US POWS BEING HELD IN NVN OR LAOS (PHINQ).

5. JOC'S NAMBEIL FROM LA QUOTES RESEARCH DIRECTOR FOR CENTER OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS OF PEPPERDINE U, IN SPEECH BEFORE TOWN HALL OF CALIFORNIA, THAT US AND WE CONCERNED WITH SVN'S ECON DEVELOPMENT IN WAKE OF NEW DISCLOSURES THAT OIL DEPOSITS PRESUMED TO LIE UNDER SVN CONTINENTAL SHELF MAY BE ONE OF LARGEST PETROLEUM RESERVES IN SEA; BUT MAY BE YEARS BEFORE QUANTITY PRODUCTION OCCURS. DRILLING RIGHTS ALREADY AWARDED MOBIL, EXXON, SHELL AND SUNNINGDALE. GVN ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHY DISCUSSED, CHARACTERIZED AS TURNING DECISION-MAKING OVER TO MARKET FORCES AND DISMANTLING COUNTERPRODUCTIVE CONTROLS AND RESTRICTIONS. RECENT REFORMS MENTIONED, INCLUDING DEVALUATION, FLEXIBLE EXCHANGE RATES, NEW ECON DEVELOPMENT FUND AND EXTENDING OF FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL HELP TO PRIVATE SECTOR. NEW FOREIGN INVESTMENT LAW NOTED, HAS 5-YEAR TAX HOLIDAY, PERMITS TOTAL FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF INVESTMENT AND GUARANTEES AGAINST NATIONALIZATION. SPEAKER CONCLUDED THAT REFORMS HAVE ELIMINATED CURRENCY UNCLASSIFIED

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SPECULATION AND ALLOWED REALISTIC PRICING OF SVN RESOURCES AND EXPORTS.

6. FANK SOURCES REPORT THAT ONE KAF T-28 BOMBED PRESIDENTIAL PALACE COMPOUND. LON NOL UNHURT BUT AT LEAST 3 KILLED, 10 WOUNDED AND SEVERAL BUILDINGS DAMAGED. SOURCES SAY PILOT ON MISSION TO BOMB PP PERIMETER, REPORTED ENGINE TROUBLE AND WAS CLEARED TO RETURN TO BASE BUT DIVERTED AND DROPPED 4 BOMBS IN CHAMCAR MON COMPOUND (AP, UPI).

7. REUTER FROM MOSCOW SEES INDICATION THAT USSR HAS DECIDED DEFINITELY TO SUPPORT GRUNK, QUOTES TASS THAT SOVIET PRESIDENT SENT GREETINGS TO SIHANOUK ON 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAMBODIAN INDEPENDENCE. TASS REPORT

DESCRIBES SIHANOUK AS HEAD OF STATE AND CHAIRMAN OF GRUNK, SAYS MESSAGE WISHED CAMBODIAN PEOPLE SUCCESSES IN STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE. TASS NOTES SIHANOUK REPLY EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR USSR SUPPORT FOR STRUGGLE OF CAMBODIAN PATRIOTS. REUTER ADDS THAT SIHANOUK HAD EARLIER SAID HE WAS ASSURED BY SOVIET AMBASSADO TO PRC THAT KREMLIN HAD NEVER RECOGNIZED LON NOL ADMIN.

JAPAN

8. JAPAN HAS SUSPENDED PLANS TO ADOPT PRO-ARAB STAND TOWARD ISRAEL; ALTERATION TIED TO KISSINGER'S BELIEF THAT OIL EMBARGO WILL END SHORTLY AND US OIL COMPANIES WILL HELP OUT IN THE MEANTIME. TO FULFILL THIS PLEDGE, DOS SAYS HAK WILL MEET WITH OIL EXECUTIVES IN EFFORT TO KEEP UP OIL SUPPLY TO JAPAN. ALTHOUGH KISSINGER HAD EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR JAPAN'S POSITION, IT WAS MADE CLEAR THAT GOJ ADOPTION OF PRO-ARAB STAND WOULD BE VIEWED UNFAVORABLY. CULLISON (JOC) SAYS JAPAN'S POLICY IN ME DEPENDS ON OIL PINCH BETWEEN NOW AND MARCH AND ITS ECONOMIC EFFECT. 1K OIL SHORTAGES CONTINUE FOR 6 MONTHS OBSERVERS IN TOKYO ASSUME INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY WILL ENTER RECESSIONARY PERIOD IN MAY OR JUNE. EMPHASIZING CRISIS, CHM OF BOARD OF THE JAPAN COMMITTEE KOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SAID WITH RUNAWAY INFLATION PLAGUING COUNTRY, OIL SHORTAGES COULD NOT HAVE COME UNCLASSIFIED

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AT WORSE TIME. PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN IS CLAIMING OIL SUPPLY CUTBACK WILL BE 30 PERCENT RATHER THAN 20 PERCENT AS GOVT. SAYS. TOKYO BUSINESS LEADERS BELIEVING THIS, ARE PRESSING FOR PRO-ARAB STAND. VICE PRES. OF ARABIAN OIL CO. OF TOKYO JUST BACK FROM SAUDI ARABIA WARNS THAT ARAB STATES WILL CONTINUE TO REGARD JAPAN AS UNFRIENDLY AS LONG AS IT MAINTAINS NEUTRAL STANCE AND OAPEC WILL CONTINUE EMBARGO FOR AT LEAST 6 MONTHS. DESPITE GOVT. PROGRAMS TO CONSERVE ENERGY, CUTS IN SUPPLY WILL CAUSE RAPID DECLINE IN PRODUCTION AND INCREASED PRICES. EMERGENCY HEADQUARTERS IN TOKYO IS CHARGED WITH PREPARING BILL FOR NEXT DIET SESSION AND RUMORED THE BILL WILL CALL FOR IMPOSITION OF OIL QUOTAS, RATIONING OF OIL PRODUCTS AND STRONG CRACKDOWN MEASURES TO DEAL WITH HOARDING AND SPECULATION. MITI'S NAKASONE TOLD NEWSMEN EMERGENCY MEASURES WOULD AIM AT "FAIR AND BALANCED DISTRIBUTION" AND WOULD BE INTERIM IN CHARACTER. MOST OBSERVERS CONTENT GOJ WILL MAKE NEW CUTS IN GROWTH PROGRAMS BEYOND ALREADY SCHEDULED 30 PERCENT. THESE MAY INCLUDE PM TANAKA'S REMODELLING IDEA FOR THE ARCHIPELAGO ON WHICH HE WAS COUNTING TO REVIVE LAGGING POPULARITY. CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY NIKAI DO TOLD NEWSMEN IT WAS LIKELY THAT EVENTS WILL PRESS GOJ TO SEND ENVOY TO ARAB STATES TO OBTAIN REVERSAL ON EMBARGO, BUT THIS WILL

NOT OCCUR UNTIL HAK ME PROGRAM STALLS, SINCE SENDING
ENVOY WOULD BE MEANINGLESS WITHOUT PRO-ARAB POLICY (JOC).

9. WP REPORTS PM TANAKA, SPEAKING WITH US NEWS AND
WORLD REPORT, SAID US SHOULD CONTINUE MAJOR MILITARY
ROLE IN ASIA SINCE "THE CHINESE PEOPLE NOW REALIZE THAT
US HAS NO TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS IN THIS PART OF THE

WORLD AND THAT THE PRESENCE OF US IN ASIA CONTRIBUTES
TO PEACE."

KOREA

10. SK PM KIM JONG PIL SAYS HAK ASSURED SK US HAS NO
INTENTIONS OF RECOGNIZING NK "FOR THE TIME BEING".
BUT IN LESS POSITIVE NEWS, IN DEMANDING WITHDRAWAL OF
SK PROPOSAL FOR JOINT KOREAN ENTRY INTO UN, NK HAS DIMMED
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PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS, ACCORDING TO SK
OFFICIALS. NK SAYS POLICY WOULD PERPETUATE DIVISION
AND DEMANDS THIS AS PREREQUISITE FOR FUTURE PROGRESS
(NYDN).

AUSTRALIA

11. TRUMBULL (NYT) REPORTING FROM SYDNEY SAYS WHITLAM'S
LABOR PARTY DEFEAT IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA'S MOST
POPULOUS STATE, POINTS TO SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN POPULARITY
OF WHITLAM ADMINISTRATION. THIS CONSERVATIVE VICTORY
IN NSW FOLLOWS A RECENT ONE IN VICTORIA. COMMENTATORS
IN SYDNEY POINT TO INDUSTRIAL STRIFE AS CAUSE FOR LABOR
JEFEAT.

PM WHITLAM HAS BEEN IN DAMAGING CONFLICT WITH THE
TRADE UNIONS, MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET AND PARTY POLICY-
MAKING BODY. HE HAS ALSO CHALLENGED THE PARTY'S NATIONAL
EXECUTIVE. HIS FOREIGN POLICY, WHICH CRITICS SAY FAVORS
COMMUNIST AND NEUTRALIST COUNTRIES, HAS ALIENATED MANY,
ALONG WITH THE MILITARY CUTS AND SOCIALIST ECONOMIC
POLICY. BUT THE CRUCIAL FACTOR HAS BEEN HIS INABILITY
TO STOP INFLATION THAT EXCEEDS 14 PERCENT PER YEAR.

12. PM WHITLAM VISITING TOKYO RECENTLY STRESSED GOVT.
WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN MINERAL PRODUCTS
EVEN THOUGH BASIC POLICY PUSHES FOR GREATER AUSTRALIAN
OWNERSHIP. EVEN HIS FORMER EXCLUSION OF FOREIGN INVESTORS
FROM VITAL ENERGY SOURCES HAS ALTERED. BUT INVESTORS
ARE HESITANT AND AREN'T SURE EXACTLY WHAT THE POLICY
IS. THEY ARE TURNED OFF BY UNCERTAINTY OVER GOVT. POLICY
CONCERNING EXISTING FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN ENERGY PROJECTS
AND GOVT. POLICY DEMANDING 1/3 OF ALL FOREIGN FUNDS

BE DEPOSITED AT NO INTEREST IN AUSTRALIAN CENTRAL BANK
(WSJ'S HARTLEY).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS
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13. SUN'S EDWARD WU IN HONG KONG SEES TAIWAN TAKING TWO-CHINA ROAD. NOTES THAT AT SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL OF ASIAN GAMES FEDERATION IN TEHRAN, GRC SOUGHT TO THWART OUSTER OF ITS TEAM FROM FEDERATION AND ASIAN GAMES TO BE HELD IN TEHRAN NEXT SEPTEMBER. SINCE IT APPEARED CERTAIN THAT PRC WOULD BE ADMITTED INTO FEDERATION AND GAMES IN PLACE OF TAIWAN, GRC REP WAS RESIGNED TO LETTING MAJORITY VOTE DECIDE ON ADMISSION OF PEKING WITHOUT EXPULSION OF TAIWAN. HOWEVER, PROPOSAL WAS RULED UNCONSTITUTIONAL BY IRANIAN CHAIRMAN; AND BY VOTE OF 38 TO 13, WITH 5 ABSTENTIONS, PEKING'S ALL-CHINA SPORTS FEDERATION WAS ADMITTED AND TAIPEI'S SPORTS ORGANIZATION EXPELLED FROM FEDERATION. COMMENTS THAT WHILE FEDERATION COUNCIL'S DECISION MIGHT BE CHALLENGED BY IOC AND INDIVIDUAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS, DIPLOMATIC TIDE APPEARS FLOWING AGAINST TAIWAN.

14. STANFORD U PROF. JOHN W. LEWIS DISCUSSES POTENTIAL IMPACT OF PRC NUCLEAR BUILDUP ON SALT. VIEWS CHINESE NUCLEAR DEPLOYMENTS IN ATMOSPHERE OF UNRESTRAINED HOSTILITY TO ARMS AGREEMENTS AS POSSIBLY HELPING PRODUCE WHAT CHINESE WANT LEAST: MASSIVE US AND SOVIET BUILDUPS THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF MIRV'S AND GREATER THREAT TO CHINA'S SECURITY WITHOUT COMPENSATING GAINS (NYT).

15. CHITRIB'S FRANK STARR RECALLS LIGHTER SIDE OF HAK'S TRIP. ON GIRL-WATCHING, CHINESE STYLE, SAYS "BAGGY UNIFORM STYLE JACKET AND TROUSERS WORN BY MEN AND WOMEN ALIKE LEAVES AN ABUNDANT LOT OF THE GIRL WATCHER'S FAME TO THE IMAGINATION AND DIRECTS HIS CONCENTRATION TO HANDS AND FACES. NEW SUBTLETIES OF AN OLD PASTIME." CITES HIGH SCHOOL DIRECTOR AS SAYING, "IN TEACHING METHOD WE STRESS DOING AWAY WITH FORCE-FEEDING METHOD THAT PREVAILED BEFORE THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND NOW USE AN ELICITATION METHOD, THUS LETTING STUDENTS HAVE THEIR OWN INITIATIVE IN GRASPING KNOWLEDGE. THE PURPOSE OF THIS IS TO TRAIN STUDENTS TO HAVE THEIR OWN ANALYTICAL STANDARD AND SOLVE PROBLEMS ON THEIR OWN." STARR WONDERS: HOW WILL THIS MESH WITH MAOIST DOGMA?

16. NYT'S LELYVELD IN HONG KONG REPORTS SOTHEBY CO.,
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LONDON AUCTION HOUSE, MAKING RECORD SALE OF 2.3 MILLION DOLLARS ON NOV. 16 FOR ONE-DAY AUCTION OF CHINESE OBJECTS. JAPANESE BUYERS DOMINATED HEAVIEST BIDDING. LOCAL CHINESE DEALERS ACCOUNTED FOR ONE-TENTH OF MONEY SPENT AT AUCTION.

17. FROM BANGKOK, NYT'S SHIPLER CITES MEMBERS OF 18-MAN COMMITTEE AS SAYING DRAFTING OF SEVERAL SECTIONS OF NEW CONSTITUTION, WHICH WOULD DECENTRALIZE RTG AND SET STAGE FOR BROAD SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO NARROW GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR, HAS BEEN COMPLETED. MEMBERS SAY THEY HAVE ELIMINATED TRADITIONAL EMPHASIS ON PROPERTY RIGHTS, AND, TO AID LANDLESS PEASANTS, HAVE INCLUDED PROVISION EMPOWERING GOVT. TO LIMIT AMOUNT OF LAND UNDER SINGLE OWNERSHIP; GOVT. WOULD ALSO BE PERMITTED TO SEIZE UNUSED LAND, OBJECT BEING TO REMOVE ANY CONSTITUTIONAL OBSTACLE TO EXTENSIVE LAND REFORM. ANOTHER SECTION WILL CONTAIN LANGUAGE TO THE EFFECT THAT "THE STATE WILL ENDEAVOR TO PROVIDE FREE EDUCATION, HOUSING, FOOD AND MATERIALS FOR STUDY TO STUDENTS WHO ARE POOR AND DESTITUTE." ACCORDING MRS. SUMALEE VIRAVAIHDHAY, NEWS COLUMNIST AND COMMITTEE MEMBER, KEY WORD "ENDEAVOR" STOPS SHORT OF LOCKING FUTURE GOVERNMENTS INTO A POLICY, BUT SETS COURSE SO THAT IF AN ADMINISTRATION IGNORES PROBLEM COMPLETELY, ITS NEGLECT CAN BE DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL. PROPOSED CONSTITUTION WOULD ELIMINATE SYSTEM OF APPOINTED PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS, WHICH ARE BEHOLDEN TO BANGKOK; THEY WOULD BE REPLACED BY ELECTED PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES AND EXECUTIVE OFFICIALS. COMMITTEE HAS JUST BEGUN DISCUSSIONS ON CRITICAL MATTER OF STRUCTURE OF NEW PARLIAMENT. COMMENTS THAT WITH NO STRONG, READY-MADE POLITICAL PARTIES AND NO FIGURES WHO COME TO MIND AS POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR PREMIER, PROBLEMS OF CREATING ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND LEGISLATURE ARE WORRISOME. INTERIM PREMIER SANYA HAS INDICATED HE WILL NOT RUN IN ELECTIONS; RESULTING FEAR IS THAT COUNTRY WILL FACE LEADERSHIP VACUUM. IN THAT EVENT, EXCESS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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PARTIES MIGHT SO FRAGMENT NEW PARLIAMENT THAT ONLY AN UNSTABLE COALITION COULD PRODUCE PREMIER. SOME FEAR SUCH GOVT. WOULD BE VULNERABLE TO CONSTANT THREAT OF MILITARY COUP. KISSINGER

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